

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-6 are pending in this application. Claims 1-6 have been rejected. In particular, claims 1-4 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Elliott et al. Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable to Elliott in view of Pakkala U.S. Patent No. 6,154,081.

By this amendment, Applicant has amended the claims to more clearly describe the invention. As now claimed, the load terminals comprise a first load terminal switched to the battery positive terminal through the first controlled semiconductor switch and the second load terminal is coupled to the battery negative terminal.

The circuit of the present invention provides benefits over the circuit shown in Elliott et al. The Elliott et al. circuit has the load motor 30 connected to the battery positive terminal and is switched through the negative terminal by the switch 34. This causes problems in the circuit of Elliott et al., particularly in the automotive environment as the load motor is always connected to the positive battery potential even when the switch 34 is off. This causes corrosion of the load because the load is always connected to the battery positive potential. Similarly, in the Elliott circuit, the freewheeling diode 38 is attached to the positive potential through the load. In contrast, in the present invention the freewheeling diode is connected to the negative battery potential.

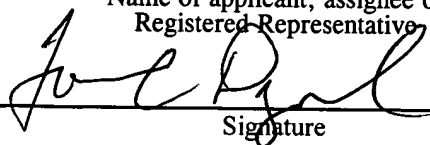
An additional consideration is that because Elliott switches the load through the negative battery terminal, the switch 40 requires a boost circuit to drive the switch 40. In the present invention, such a boost circuit is not needed as the reverse battery FET is driven off the positive battery voltage without requiring such circuitry, thus providing a much simpler cost-effective circuit.

Accordingly, it is submitted that in view of the Amendment, all claims in this application are now in condition for allowance, prompt notification of which is requested.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on July 7, 2005.

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July 7, 2005

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Respectfully submitted,



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